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Struggle for Power in the USSR - A ZIPPERite's Views

1. On 25 May 1954 during the course of a conversation with ZIPPER's CE, Soviet specialist, @ Dr. ALBERTI, the latter discussed views concerning the struggle for power in the USSR. He indicated personal disagreement with the view of ZIPPER's reports staff presented shortly after the fall of BERIA, that the latter's fall signified Red Army ascendancy in the USSR. @ ALBERTI also pointed out that the top military man, although a general, was not really an army man but a "GD" (state security) general and that his two subordinate leading army generals are in almost direct opposition personally and in professional strategy/tactics concepts; hence, presumably easily and deliberately played off against one another. @ ALBERTI personally considered that the ZIPPER line as published by its reports section originated from @ HERDAHL who is, according to him, too impulsive and too inclined to the military viewpoint.

2. According to @ Dr. ALBERTI, the importance of the Communist Party in the USSR cannot be overestimated. However, he now inclines to the belief that Georgi MALENKOV, because of his involvement in the government apparatus, is playing a lesser role in the party itself and as such may be headed for a decline. @ Dr. ALBERTI ascribed considerable significance to Soviet Russian press reports that during recent speeches MALENKOV addressed the Chamber of Nationalities, an assembly lesser in stature than the Chamber of Soviet Republics which was addressed by Nikita KHRUSHCHEV, whose speech received more space in the Soviet press than did MALENKOV's. Also, the report of enthusiastic reception and applause for KHRUSHCHEV received a higher rating than that given to MALENKOV.

FOB Comment: Substantive disagreements on political evaluation within ZIPPER are inevitable and interesting. We have no feeling of any underestimating of Party importance or strength by @ HERDAHL's line. On the contrary, the economists in @ HERDAHL's staff are well impressed with the growing (i.e., in the next two to five years) effectiveness and realness of the Party's program in the USSR and several of the Satellites.

3. @ Dr. ALBERTI believes that the purge of the intelligence/security (HIE/MVD) apparatus has almost reached completion and that the next institutions to undergo drastic purge will be the Army and the Party itself.

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FOB Comment: @ Dr. ALBERTI has been asked to elaborate on his ideas on this point.

4. We should be interested in any comments you may care to make on the views advanced by @ Dr. ALBERTI.

Approved by:

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